British territories. We can, no doubt, have only a common policy with them. But it cannot be gainsaid that the moral and material welfare of the people cannot be brought about, unless the evil habits, of taking to alcohol and other intoxicants, are completely irradicated. The ever-increasing revenue, that the Government is deriving from this Department, shows, however, that they are paying but little attention to their duties in this respect. Prohibition can be brought about gradually by trying to reduce the number of shops, and by reducing the quantity available for consumption and also by locating shops in distant places. At present, toddy and arrack shops are more common than way-side coffee shops. The cry of the Municipalities to remove these shops from their midst is a cry in the wilderness. It is high time for the Government to take a bold step in this direction.

Law and Justice.

The next subject, Sir, on which I should like to say a few words, is *Administration of Law and Justice.*

Sir, the accommodation provided for our District Judges and Munsiffs, especially at Ernakulam, is simply miserable. In the present District Court building, there is no room at all for holding an Additional Judge's Court. There is no proper place to accommodate the Sirkar Vakil and his office. His office is now preventing the ingress of breeze from the west to the District Court hall. The Additional District Judge's court is nothing better than a dungeon. It is a pity that the Government is so careless In the matter of providing suitable accommodation. As regards the Munsiff's Courts, the case is worse. Two courts are packed in one and the same building. A very small building, which is most unsuited for the purpose for which it is used, is used at present. The two Munsiffs at Ernakulam have to share a common private chamber. There is no room in that building for vakils. This Department is producing a lot of revenue to the Government. That the Government should not accommodate the judicial officers and their staff properly is certainly unjustifiable.

As regards appointments to the services in this Department, any one should emphatically protest against the policy that is being followed by the Government in this respect. You know, Sir, that, as a rule, both in British India and in the Sister State of Travancore, competent members of the Bar are directly recruited to all grades of appointments in the judicial service. Here the policy is just the reverse. Direct recruitment from the Bar is a rare exception. I do not say that competent men in service should not get promotions. All that I wish to bring home to the Government is that the Government should con

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sider that members of the Bar also are equally, if not more, entitled to appointments in the judicial line. The efficiency of the service imperatively demands it. The sooner the Government changes its present policy in this matter, the better for the service and the litigant public.

Education.

Then I come to *Education*.

The present policy of the Government in the matter of primary education in particular, and secondary education in general, has to be modified to a very great extent. A large amount is being spent by the Government year after year for this purpose, but I regret I have to observe that the amounts are not spent with any great discrimination. The system of giving grant has engendered a spirit of commercial feeling in the matter of starting schools. Many a so-called Manager is running a school, because it is a course of gain to him, with no investment at all. This is highly undesirable. Schools should be allowed only in such a way as to prevent unwholesome competition. Private schools should not be allowed to detrimentally compete with each other and with Government institutions. Wherever there is such keen competition, the Government can gracefully and profitably withdraw.

Education should be nationalised. Wherever possible, vernacular should be made the medium of instruction. In the matter of prescribing text-books, the whole policy requires overhauling. When education has become so very costly, the Government should try to bring down the expenditure on books and instruments as far as possible. What is good as a text-book for one boy is considered to be bad for another. The underlying policy seems to be unintelligible. Again, where the Government has appointed an expert body to select text-books, it is a pity that that body's considered opinion is sometimes thrown to the winds without even assigning reasons therefor, and the Government does as it likes.

Sir, it is highly desirable that a Law College is started in the State. Financially it will be a success, the Government being able to lay by a substantial amount by way of surplus. It will prevent our Arts Graduates having to contribute to the income of the Travancore Darbar and the revenues of the Madras Government. There was a strong representation made to the present Government as regards the matter, and to satisfy the Government as to its prospective success, facts and figures were placed before them. The Government then promised to consider the matter favourably, but the Government seems to have entirely forgotten the matter.

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